

DAVIS-MONTHAN CHARTER SCHOOL



BACKGROUND

- Two public schools, K-5 on DM until 2006 (Tucson Unified School District (TUSD))
 - *TUSD down-sizing and financial issues*
 - *Consolidated to one K-5 school*
 - *Defaulted on vacant school deed*
 - *58-year old school returned to Base*



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BACKGROUND

- Assigned TUSD middle school (6-8) in local community
 - Labeled “failing” three straight years*
 - Over-crowded*
 - Underfunded*
 - Bus ride to other school over 1 hour*



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PROCESS

- Parents on Base survey and Town Hall meeting
 - *“Overwhelming response” – need on-base middle school*
- DM Charter School Working Group formed
 - *Work options/advantages to local middle school*
 - *Incorporated experts from:*
 - Fighter Wing Plans and Legal Offices
 - Mission Support Group engineers, contractors, Force Support and Security Forces personnel

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PROCESS

■ Team Strategy

- *Reuse 58-year old school -- facility condition assessed by Engineers*
- *Wing Plans Office submitted beddown request for a charter school to HQ Air Force -- Approved 17 November 2008*
- *Force Support held open, transparent communication with families/leadership for desired qualities for middle school*
 - Town Hall meetings
 - Wing and Group meetings
 - Open e-mail discussion
- *Researched charter school xxxxx in Arizona*
 - Contacted 327 charters schools



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PROCESS

■ Team Selection Procedure

- *Establish Source Selection Team (SST) -- Contracting*
- *Developed Request for Proposal (RFP) / Statement of Objectives*
- *Operating Agreement (OA) developed*
 - Safety/Security/Maintenance costs
- *Basis for Award – competitive Best Value*
 - Technical Properties (educational standards) – Force Support and Contracting
 - Financial (Pass/Fail) – Civil Engineering (CE) and Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence (AFCEE)
 - Lease for facility (Pass/Fail) – CE and Legal
- *Advertised plan with a press release through Arizona Charter School Association*

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PROCESS

■ Charter School Selection

- *Streamlined tech evaluation cut 50% off coordination time with multiple units working simultaneously*
- *SST sent results to Fighter Wing Commander (selection authority)*
- *Final selection approval was sent to:*
 - 1) Air Combat Command
 - 2) Air Force Real Property Agency
 - 3) Secretary of the Air Force
 - 4) Congress
- *Selection of Sonoran Science Academy approved, 15 July 2009*
- *DM School Liaison Officer*
 - Facilitated interagency coordination / ensured on-time school start
- *Sonoran Science Academy opened 17 August 2009 -- 120 students*

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IMPACT AND RESULTS

- Selected charter school–Sonoran Science Academy (SSA)
 - *Embraced “Excellence”*
 - “Love for Learning – Independent Thinking”
 - *Named “Arizona Charter School of the Year, 2009”*
 - *No. 1 of 502 in Charter School Organization*
 - *Eliminated substandard middle school education program*
 - Ranked 50th in pupil spending in all Arizona Public Schools
 - *Quality education – no tuition fees!*

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IMPACT AND RESULTS

▪ Facility and Lease

- *Army Corps of Engineers – Lease Agreement*
 - Determined “No Fee-Based” lease
 - Quality education – minimal cost to charter school (SSA)
 - *More money spent on students*
- *Savings to the Air Force – over \$940,000*
 - Demolition of 58-year-old facility -- \$910,000
 - Grounds maintenance -- \$31,000

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IMPACT AND RESULTS

■ SSA Program

- *19 classes and 11 extra-curricular classes to students – 1st year*
- *Free after-school and weekend tutoring*
- *Technology in Teaching – internet in every class*
- *Resource computer lab – Fall of second year*
- *Programs for special needs students*
- *Student/teacher ratio = 10:1*
- *Focus on learning and college preparation*
- *Two sets of textbooks – for school and home*
- *Teacher tracking to every student level*
- *Home visit s, community, and social events*

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IMPACT AND RESULTS

- SSA provides an environment of emphasis on high academic achievements
 - *Airmen's children have opportunity to attend one of nation's top technical school – math and science*
 - *Student aptitude – test results show exceptional increases in one year (6-8 grades)*
 - Reading up 46%
 - Writing up 53%
 - Math up 60%
 - *Phenomenal return on investment!*

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SUSTAINMENT AND STANDARDIZATION

- Unprecedented success!
 - *Military families – parents & students excited about opportunities SSA offers*
 - *DM process sought by 6 Air Force installations*
 - *AF, ACC, State of Arizona officials have visited SSA*
- SSA plans for 2010/2011 school year
 - *Adding high school 1 grade per year to 12th*
 - *Requested extension of lease to 15 years with options*
 - *Stability and long-term growth*
 - *Integrated Air Force School Liaison with faculty board – quick problem solving*
 - *Renovation plans for computer lab*
 - *Expanded full-sized gym in 3 years*

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SUSTAINMENT AND STANDARDIZATION

- 355TH Fighter Wing enterprise – SSA charger school
 - *Opportunity to Airmen's families*
 - *Excel now and in the future*
 - *College prepared – success in high tech community of new millenium*
 - *Military Ops Tempo – less family stress*
 - *Quality school*
 - *Parents and students – E³*
 - Excited
 - Enthusiasm
 - Energized

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SUSTAINMENT AND STANDARDIZATION

- Comments by parents and students:
 - *“School actually goes the extra mile”*
 - *“No one has bullied me at this school”*
 - *“I love my teachers. They take time to listen.”*

DAVIS-MONTHAN CHARTER SCHOOL WORKING GROUP

- **QUALITY EDUCATION IN MILITARY COMMUNITY**

